

MATAFAO ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



HISTORY:

The Matafao Elementary School site is located in the village of Faga'alu along the southwest entrance to Pago Pago Harbor. Prior to and during World War II, the U.S. Navy used the site as a disposal area and as a result, extended the shoreline to about 400 feet. In 1961, the Department of Interior transferred the site to the American Samoa Government (ASG). Residents continued to utilize the site as a landfill until 1964 when the area was leveled and covered with fill material. Matafao Elementary School was constructed on the area between 1964 and 1966. The composition of waste buried beneath the school is not known although it has been speculated munitions may be present. Metal waste such as corroded engine parts, axles, chassis and wheel rims can be seen along the shoreline of the school and offshore. Other debris include concrete vaults, concrete slabs, tires and glass pieces. There have also been historical sightings of explosives attached to acetylene tanks within the area.

The 1996 Inventory Project Report (INPR) and Findings of Fact reported that during a site visit in July 1996, a corroded Mk23 practice bomb was discovered on the shoreline of the school. Divers also noticed 55-gallon drums and whole truck bodies approximately 30 feet offshore.

CURRENT STATUS:

In March 2010, the Army Corps of Engineers issued a Technical Project Planning Memorandum to initiate environmental investigations. Parsons will conduct a site investigation and treat the site as an anticipated Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (RI/FS) site (*Final Technical Project Planning Memorandum & Associated Documentation Matafao School*, June 2010, Parsons).

Details	
Category:	FUDS
Village, Island:	Fagaalu, Tutuila
Nature of Contamination:	Munitions
Coordinates:	14°17'18.18"S 170°40'45.13"W
Site Size:	4.8 acres
Response Status:	Ongoing
Suitable for Unrestricted Use?	Yes
Controls:	N/A
Lead Agency:	U.S. Army Center Corps of Engineers
Enforcement Authority:	AS-EPA
Property/Ownership Status:	American Samoa Government
Last Updated:	July 2010